



State Supports Local Growth Management Efforts

Growth Management Services

Providing financial and technical resources to build livable and sustainable communities



Assisting Local Governments

Part of the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, Growth Management Services (GMS) assists local governments in designing their own growth management programs to fit local needs. GMS has eight primary programs whose main focus is the sustainable evolution and development of the cities and counties in Washington.

Program Functions

GMS provides assistance and guidance for planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) passed in 1990. It helps cities and counties preparing for future growth to comply with the GMA and to provide facilities, services, and housing consistent with the goals of the GMA. GMS accomplishes this through its many services:

- Providing technical and financial resources to help fully planning* local governments develop county-wide planning policies, comprehensive plans, and development regulations, including critical areas ordinances.
- Publishing guidebooks on chapters of the comprehensive plan including land use, transportation, capital facilities, and rural areas for counties.
- Helping counties and cities plan to conserve and protect their unique resource lands and critical areas.
- Reviewing and providing comments on local governments' plans and regulations.
- Presenting educational workshops and the Short Course on Local Planning for planning commissioners, local officials, and citizens.
- Supplying minimum guidelines for resource lands and critical areas and procedural criteria for carrying out the GMA.



For More Information

Leonard Bauer, Managing Director
Growth Management Services
906 Columbia St. SW
PO Box 48350
Olympia WA 98504-8350
360.725.3000
www.oed.wa.gov/growth

A Better Washington

GMS encourages and enhances the livability and desirability of Washington state by ensuring the success of the GMA. By helping local governments to plan and to carry out effective solutions for growing communities, natural resources, and economic vitality, GMS aims to increase understanding about the impact and long-term benefits growth management has within a community.

* Fully planning communities are the fastest growing counties and cities in the state that follow more complex guidelines; other local governments have chosen to become fully planning, too. There are 29 counties and 218 cities that are fully planning communities.

Photos: CTED/Chris Parsons, Rita R. Robison